

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 12/13/2005, 7:15PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Rademacher, Chuck Pappas, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Associates: Howard Muise

Public Comment

Chris and Bridget McCaffrey (74 Dow Avenue) are abutters on the George Street private way. They expressed support for effort to put in a sidewalk.

The minutes of November 15, 2005 were unanimously approved.

3. Ed Starr reviewed the list of outstanding items. Committee members made the following comments:

- Elisabeth Carr-Jones noted that Water Street has been repaved but crosswalks at Mass Ave and the bikeway are not marked.
- Jeff Maxtutis expressed a concern about the missing no-parking signs near Dallin School
- Ed Starr noted that the Crosby/College stop signs have been put in.
- Kevin O'Brien explained that for Discovery Park in Cambridge, the plan is to add 400,000 square feet of office space, but limit to existing parking. However, the existing parking is underutilized. The Town had sent a letter saying that the traffic study did not adequately consider impacts on nearby Arlington streets. Scott Smith noted that any increased traffic from the site, insofar as it adds to traffic by Alewife Station, could adversely affect Arlington transit users, who walk, ride bicycles or ride buses to/from Alewife.
- Ed Starr presented a letter concerning traffic control on the Stowcroft approach to Bishop School.

4. Downing Square

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reviewed the results of the survey that was sent to some 60 interested area residents. Response to the elements of the trial was mostly favorable, except that opinion was divided on the speed hump. Ed Starr reported that the Capital Planning committee indicated that funds for this should be part of the DPW request. Ed and John Sanchez both disagreed with this indication. John Sanchez noted that some funds might be available do to the island on the east side (between Bow and Lowell) as well as the bump out by the Peter Pan store. However, he noted that if the Town makes changes, it would be liable if the changes are not properly made. Kevin O'Brien noted that there might need to be a sidewalk and crosswalks by the Lowell/Bow turn lane. Also, should Westminster be made one-way westbound?

5. Dallin School

Jeff Maxtutis reported that he met with the George Street abutters. They agreed that a sidewalk would be desirable. Scott Smith asked whether trucks use this route, noting that the travel lane could be made narrower than 12', to provide more room for the sidewalk. Elisabeth Carr-Jones asked that with this street becoming available, the turn-around be removed so that the sidewalk could continue straight to the school. The sidewalk would be on the north (fence) side of the street.

It was moved that the TAC recommend that
The Town explore the taking of the street as a public way, and install a sidewalk, for the purpose of enhancing student safety when walking to Dallin School
The Board of Selectmen place a Town Meeting warrant article to further this objective.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the paving of the private way has enabled faster speeds, and that some traffic control might be appropriate at the intersection of the George Street private way and Dow Avenue.

It was moved that a stop sign and stop bar be placed, facing George Street, at the intersection with Dow Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Appleton / Paul Revere

Elisabeth Carr-Jones presented several options for this intersection. The following recommendations were voted unanimously:

Relocate the stop sign on the Paul Revere approach to Appleton to a more visible location

Continue the centerline on Appleton through the curve

Warning sign (MUTCD W1-2R, or similar) on Appleton on the eastbound approach to this intersection.

7. East Arlington Parking

Scott Smith reviewed the results of the survey, noting that over 300 responses had been received (an over 30% response rate to a mail-in survey).

People were generally in favor of posting and enforcement of no parking within 20 feet of an intersection

Opinion was divided on one-side of the street parking. However, strong majorities of respondents were in favor on Chandler, Brooks and Lafayette. Most of Chandler already has one-side parking.

Opinion was also divided on the use of two-hour limits with permits.

Since one-side parking does provide a safety benefit on these narrow streets, and it is desirable for any pilot to include at least some of the winter months. The TAC voted to recommend a 6-month pilot of one-side parking on Brooks and Lafayette.

Next steps include

- Development of a transparent process (e.g., a petition of at least 50% of abutters indicating support) for consideration and possible adoption of time limits and/or permits.
- Placing the parking survey results on the TAC website.

8. Dickson and Wheeler

Chuck Pappas reported that this is a stop sign request for the intersection of two local streets. His recommendation was to stop Dickson at Wheeler and to have an abutter trim bushes which may be obstructing visibility (in possible violation of the zoning bylaw). We agreed to defer action until the crash history could be obtained and reviewed.

9. Mass. Ave. Corridor

Kevin O'Brien noted that our consultant is working with Ed Markey's office to attempt to

have some funds available for design.

10. Park Avenue Crosswalks

Ed Starr expressed a concern that there were no in-street pedestrian warning signs at many of the non-signalized Park Avenue crosswalks.

11. Hawthorne / Cedar

Jeff Maxtutis reported that some residents may be planning a 5-way stop at a 5-way intersection of private ways. He noted that this intersection most likely does not meet the criteria for an all-way stop. After some discussion, we concluded that the Town did not have either the power or responsibility for traffic control at intersections where all the streets are private ways.

12. Interaction with School Committee

Ed Starr reported that he and Elisabeth Carr-Jones met with Sue Sheffler, Suzanne Owayda, and Susan Lovelace of the School Committee. Major concerns include

- Crossing guards
- Safety concerns around the schools for student arrival and departures.

13. Crosswalk Working Group

Ed Starr noted that this working group currently has no leader, and asked if someone would be interested.

14. Town Departments

John Sanchez asked about the parking request for 385 Mass Ave. Scott Smith noted that it had come to us a few months ago, and was quickly routed to Lt. McHugh of the Police. Kevin O'Brien reported that nothing is happening at Symmes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda package with agenda, project list, rotation list, 2006 meeting dates, list of Board of Selectmen requests, outstanding actions, letter from the Town to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental affairs regarding Discovery Park– from Ed Starr

E-mail regarding Stowecroft Road by Bishop School – from Ed Starr

Minutes from November 2005, and East Arlington Parking survey results – from Scott Smith

Downing Square diagram and survey results – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

George Street diagram and photos, and e-mail exchange on Cedar Avenue/Hawthorne Avenue/Fountain Road – from Jeff Maxtutis

Dickson Avenue/Wheeler Lane diagram and photos – from Chuck Pappas